Manga Syndrome

Asahi Nagu

by Ai Kozaki

Credits

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Chapter 03

Red Sash

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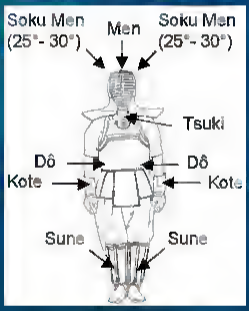
Manga Syndrome

ASAHI NAGU

by Ai Kozaki

STARTING WITH THIS CHAPTER, WE WILL BE RETAINING THE JAPANESE BATTLE CRIES FOR THE DIFFERENT STRIKES DONE IN NAGINATA, AND WHERE THEY ARE TARGETED:



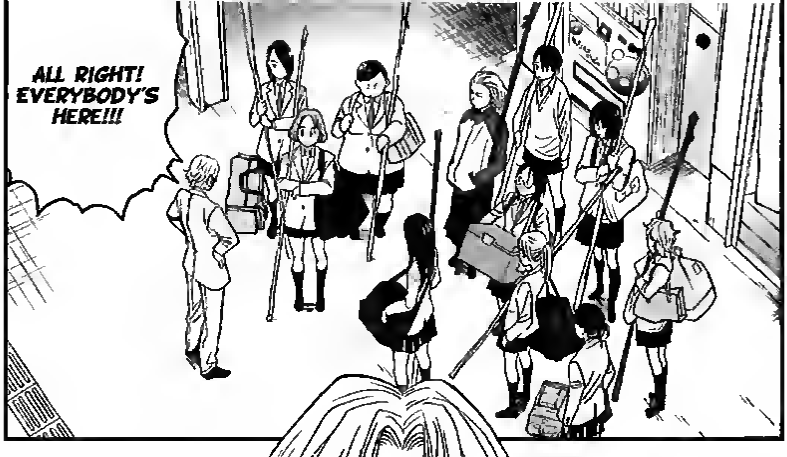
SUNE – SHIN
MEN – HEAD
KOTE – WRIST
DOU – TORSO
TSUKI – THROAT

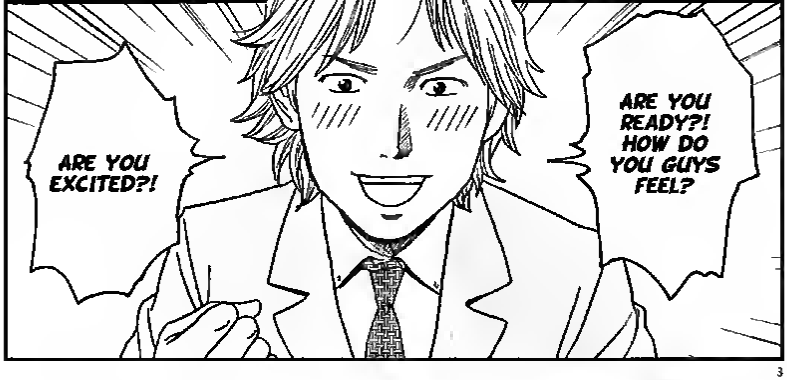
THIS IS BECAUSE EVEN WHEN TAUGHT OUTSIDE JAPAN, PRACTICTIONERS OF THIS ART ARE MADE TO LEARN AND USE THESE.

SPECIAL THANKS TO ONE OF OUR READERS, JM HERNANDEZ, FOR BEARING THIS.

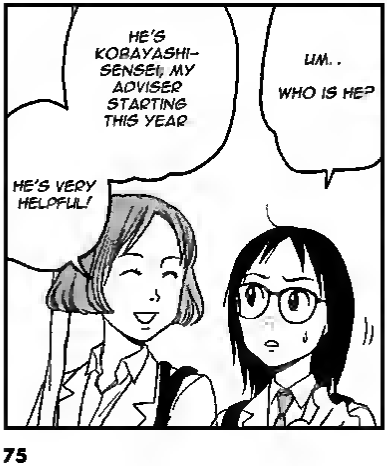
EVERY DAY WE DO NOTHING BUT PRACTICE THE BASICS
IT'S BEEN SEVERAL WEEKS SINCE I ENTERED THE NAGINATA CLUB
SO WHILE KEEPING BUSY WITH THE CLUB
TRYING OUR HARDEST EVERY DAY,
I STILL DON'T REALLY KNOW WHAT NAGINATA IS.
IN FACT I DON'T UNDERSTAND MUCH AT ALL.
FINALLY, THAT DAY CAME.

IT'S THE DAY OF THE PRELIMINARIES!!!
CHAPTER 3 RED SASH


ALL RIGHT! EVERYBODY'S HERE!!!

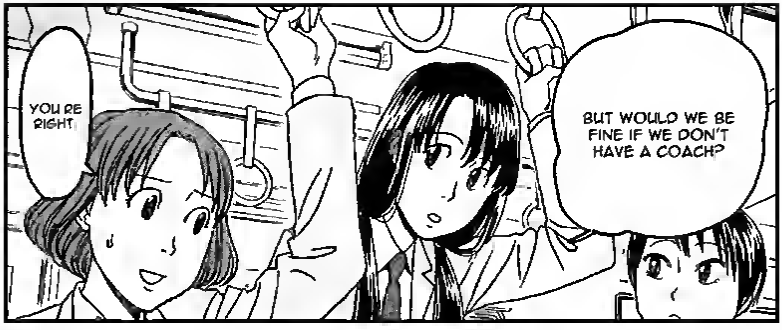

ARE YOU EXCITED?!
ARE YOU READY?! HOW DO YOU GUYS FEEL?

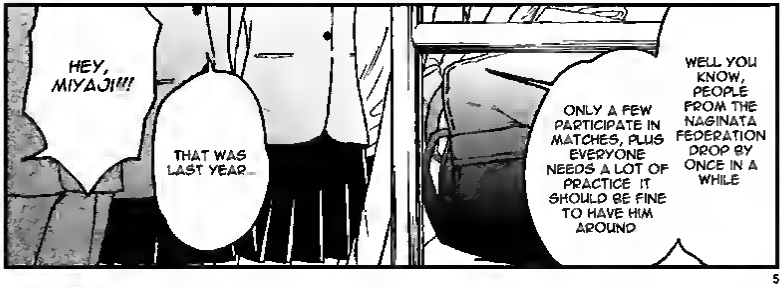
3


HE'S KOBAYASHI-SENSEI, MY ADVISER STARTING THIS YEAR
UM.. WHO IS HE?
HE'S VERY HELPFUL!

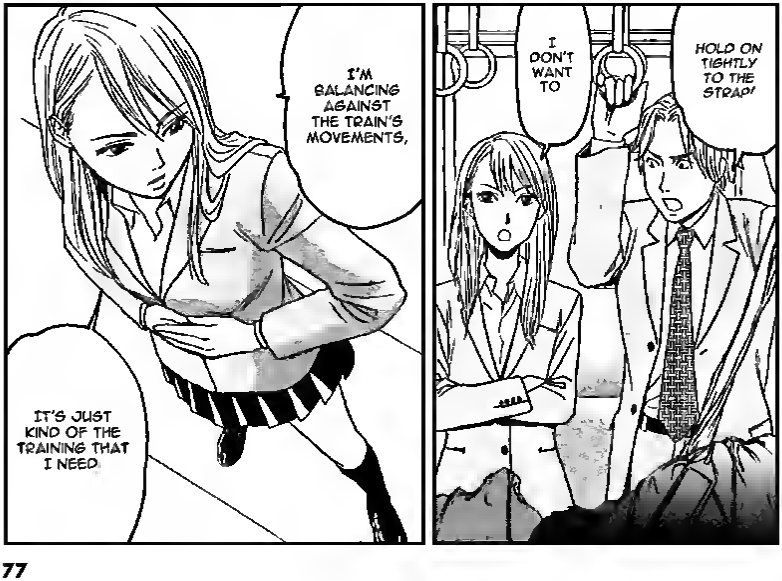
NOT REALLY, IT'S JUST THE USUAL...
WHAT ARE YOU WORRYIN' ABOUT?!
BELIEVE IN YOURSELF AND GO FOR IT!!!

BUT THE MATCH ITSELF IS A DIFFERENT CASE!!!
THIS REMINDS ME OF THE TIME WHEN I WAS IN THE ROWING TEAM, BACK WHEN I WAS A STUDENT JUST LIKE YOU! I ALWAYS CHEERED THE TEAM ON!
THIS "CITY-BOY" SENSEI DOESN'T REALLY KNOW MUCH ABOUT NAGINATA OR THINGS LIKE THAT
WELL, IT CAN'T BE HELPED
WE'VE BEEN DOING JUST FINE WITHOUT YOU WATCHING US DURING TRAINING! THEN SUDDENLY, WHEN THE MATCHES COME, YOU SHOW UP AS OUR COACH?!
ALL RIGHT, LET'S GO!
HUH?
AND BEFORE EVERY MATCH, I'D THINK OF A POTATO TO BRING OUT MY BEST FORM!!!
IT'S NOT EASY TO FIND A CAPABLE COACH FOR NAGINATA,
THAT'S WHY WE JUST USUALLY MAKE DO WITH WHAT'S AROUND
INOUE, SENSEI CAN HEAR YOU, SO PLEASE TRY TO BE A LITTLE NICER
HEEEY!!!
REMEMBER, FIRST OF ALL, TO THINK OF A POTATO, OKAY?


YOU'RE RIGHT.
BUT WOULD WE BE FINE IF WE DON'T HAVE A COACH?


HEY, MIYAJI!!!
THAT WAS LAST YEAR...
ONLY A FEW PARTICIPATE IN MATCHES, PLUS EVERYONE NEEDS A LOT OF PRACTICE. IT SHOULD BE FINE TO HAVE HIM AROUND
WELL YOU KNOW, PEOPLE FROM THE NAGINATA FEDERATION DROP BY ONCE IN A WHILE

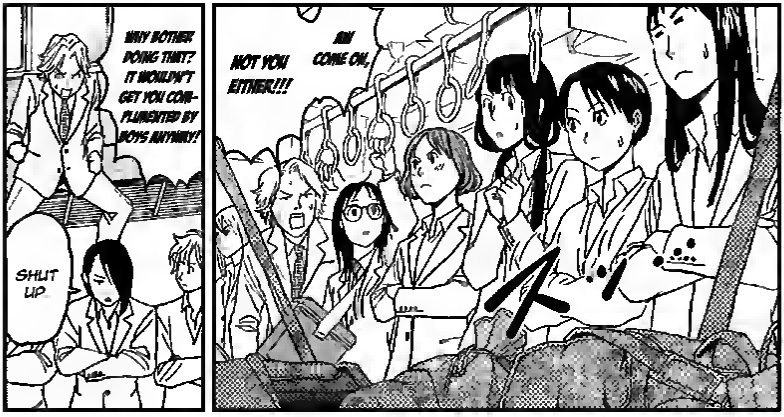
5

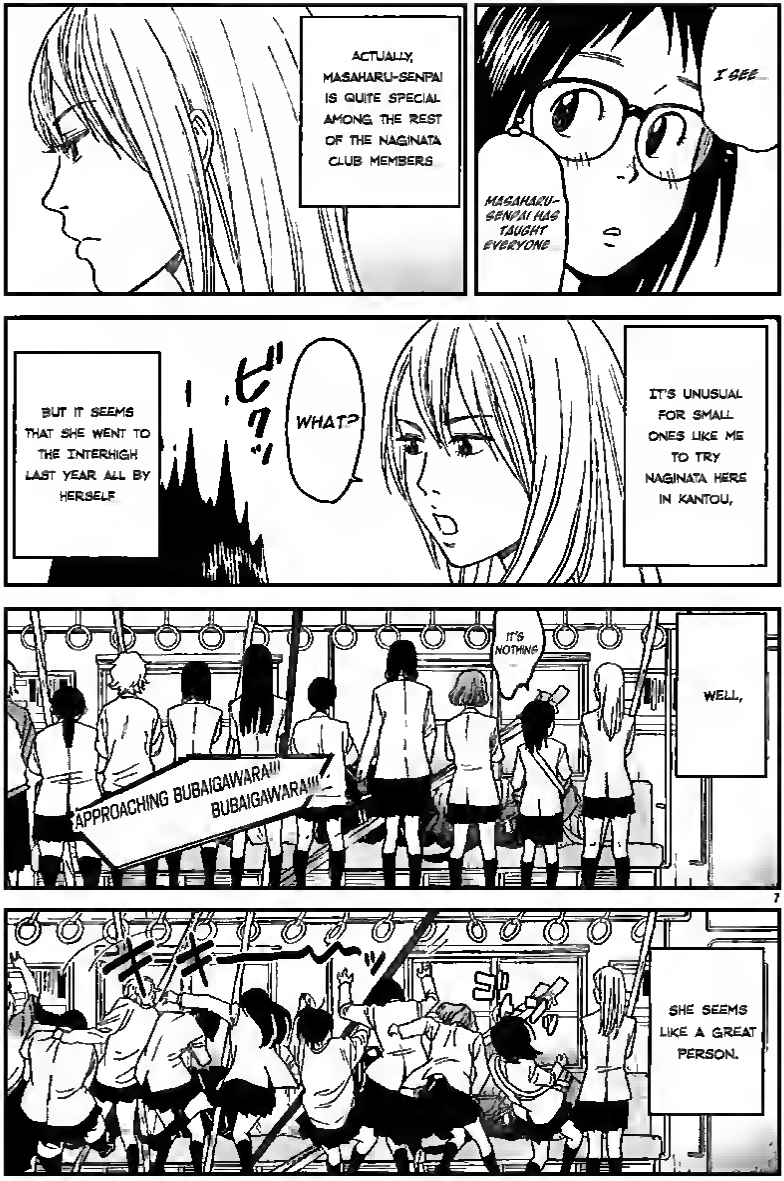

I'M BALANCING AGAINST THE TRAIN'S MOVEMENTS,
IT'S JUST KIND OF THE TRAINING THAT I NEED.
I DON'T WANT TO
HOLD ON TIGHTLY TO THE STRAP!

I'VE NEVER HELD ON TO A HAND STRAP SINCE
I STARTED PRACTICING NAGINATA WHEN I WAS 7.

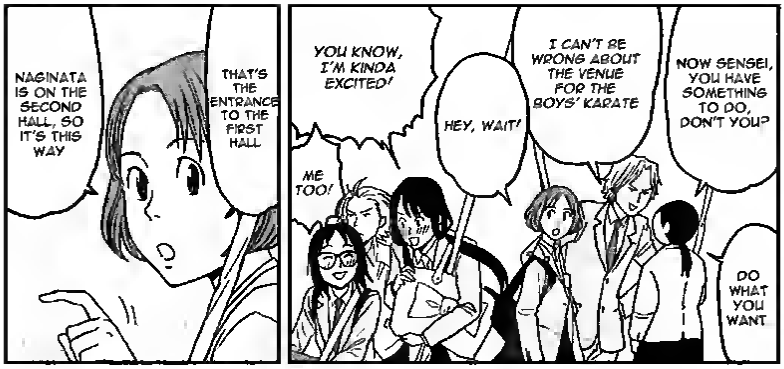
SHE'S SUCH A PROUD ONE...
.....

6

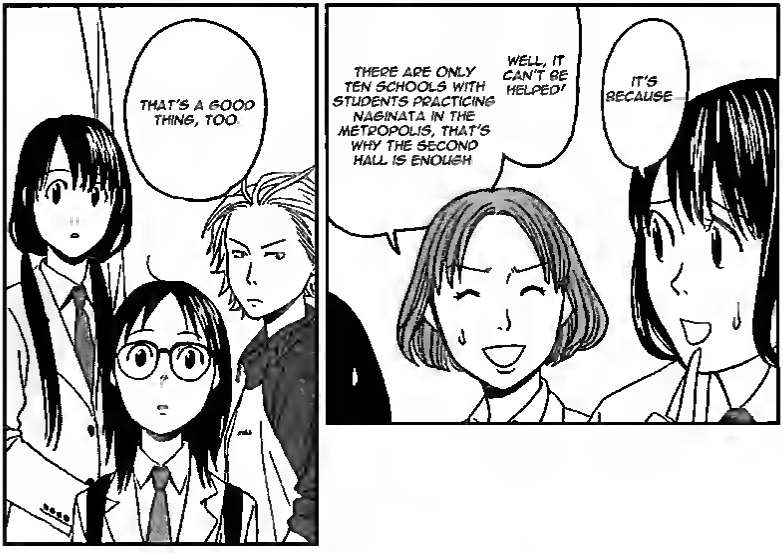

WHY BOTHER DOING THAT? IT WOULDN'T GET YOU COMPLIMENTED BY BOYS ANYWAY!
SHUT UP.
AH COME ON,
NOT YOU EITHER!!!


ACTUALLY, MASAHARU-SENPAI IS QUITE SPECIAL AMONG THE REST OF THE NAGINATA CLUB MEMBERS.
I SEE...
MASAHARU-SENPAI HAS TAUGHT EVERYONE.
BUT IT SEEMS THAT SHE WENT TO THE INTERHIGH LAST YEAR ALL BY HERSELF.
ビクッ
WHAT?
IT'S UNUSUAL FOR SMALL ONES LIKE ME TO TRY NAGINATA HERE IN KANTOU,
IT'S NOTHING.
WELL,
APPROACHING BUBAIGAWARA!!!
BUBAIGAWARA!!!
7
SHE SEEMS LIKE A GREAT PERSON.

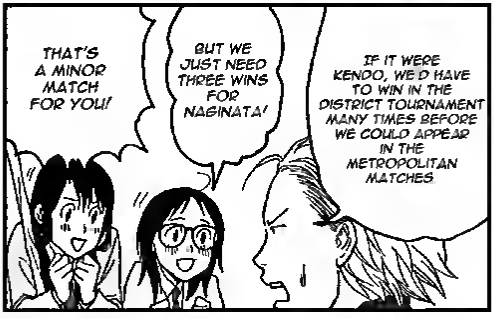
T/N BUDOUKAN MARTIAL ARTS STADIUM

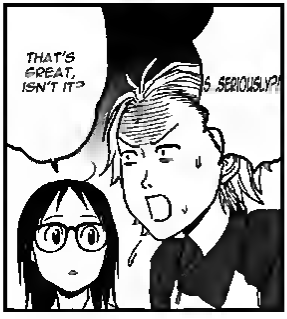

NAGINATA IS ON THE SECOND HALL, SO IT'S THIS WAY
THAT'S THE ENTRANCE TO THE FIRST HALL
YOU KNOW, I'M KINDA EXCITED!
ME TOO!
HEY, WAIT!
I CAN'T BE WRONG ABOUT THE VENUE FOR THE BOYS' KARATE
NOW SENSEI, YOU HAVE SOMETHING TO DO, DON'T YOU?
DO WHAT YOU WANT

WHY ARE YOU FEELING DOWN?!
IT'S SO SIMPLE
OH

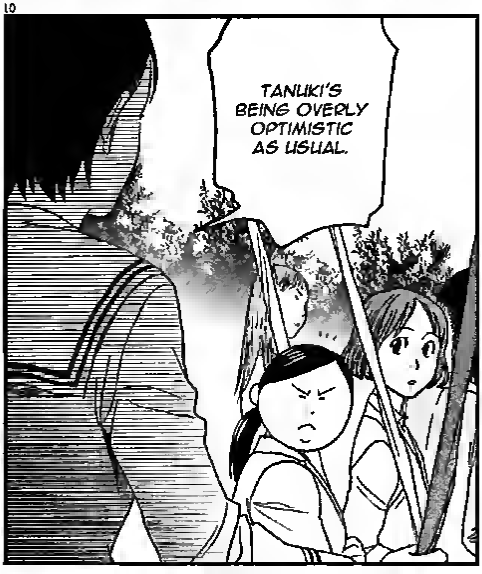

THAT'S A GOOD THING, TOO
THERE ARE ONLY TEN SCHOOLS WITH STUDENTS PRACTICING NAGINATA IN THE METROPOLIS, THAT'S WHY THE SECOND HALL IS ENOUGH
WELL, IT CAN'T BE HELPED!
IT'S BECAUSE

IF WE MANAGE TO WIN THREE TIMES,
WE'LL GET A PLACE IN THE TOKYO INTERHIGH!


IF IT WERE KENDO, WE'D HAVE TO WIN IN THE DISTRICT TOURNAMENT MANY TIMES BEFORE WE COULD APPEAR IN THE METROPOLITAN MATCHES
BUT WE JUST NEED THREE WINS FOR NAGINATA!
THAT'S A MINOR MATCH FOR YOU!

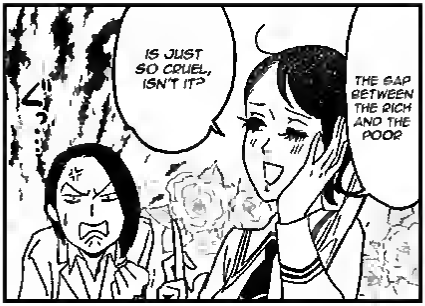

IS SERIOUSLY?
THAT'S GREAT, ISN'T IT?

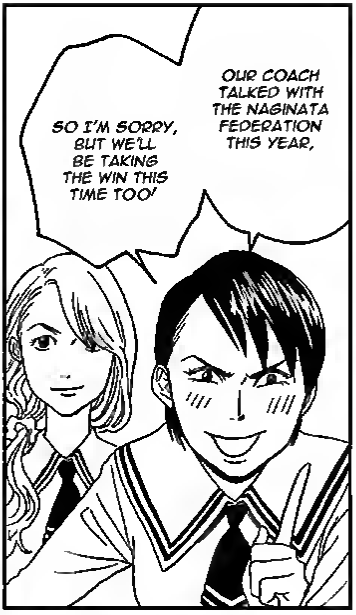
10

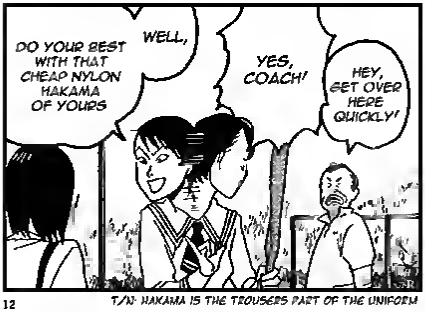

TANUKI'S BEING OVERLY OPTIMISTIC AS USUAL.

I CAN'T REALLY TELL WHETHER IT'S GREAT OR NOT...
THAT'S NOT REALLY WORTH THINKING TOO HARD ABOUT

YOU WERE GOING FOR YOUR SECOND WIN THEN
THAT'S WHEN YOU LOST LAST YEAR, DIDN'T YOU?
SEISEN'S HERE!
WHO ARE THEY?
SEISEN ACADEMY STUDENTS
IT'S A GIRLS' PRIVATE SCHOOL IN AZABU YOU CAN SAY THAT THEY'RE REALLY ANNOYING ONES
YOU'RE ABOUT TO PULL OUT JUST LIKE HACHIOJI, AREN'T YOU? YOU SUDDENLY HAD A FALSE SENSE OF CONFIDENCE JUST BECAUSE YOU HAVE TANUKI WTIH YOU!
AND AS ALWAYS, THAT OTAKU LOOKS LIKE AN ANIME COSPLAYER IN THAT UNIFORM!
MIZUMI
...HEY, I HEARD THAT!
HOW MANY TIMES DO I HAVE TO TELL THOSE SECOND YEARS?!





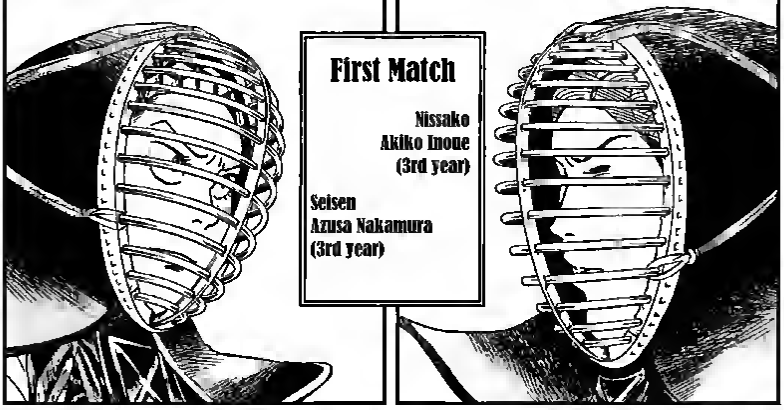


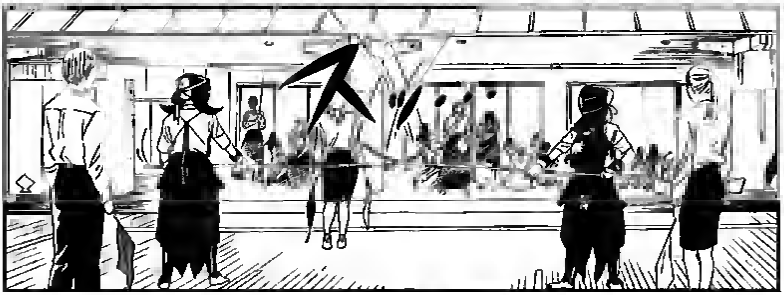
12

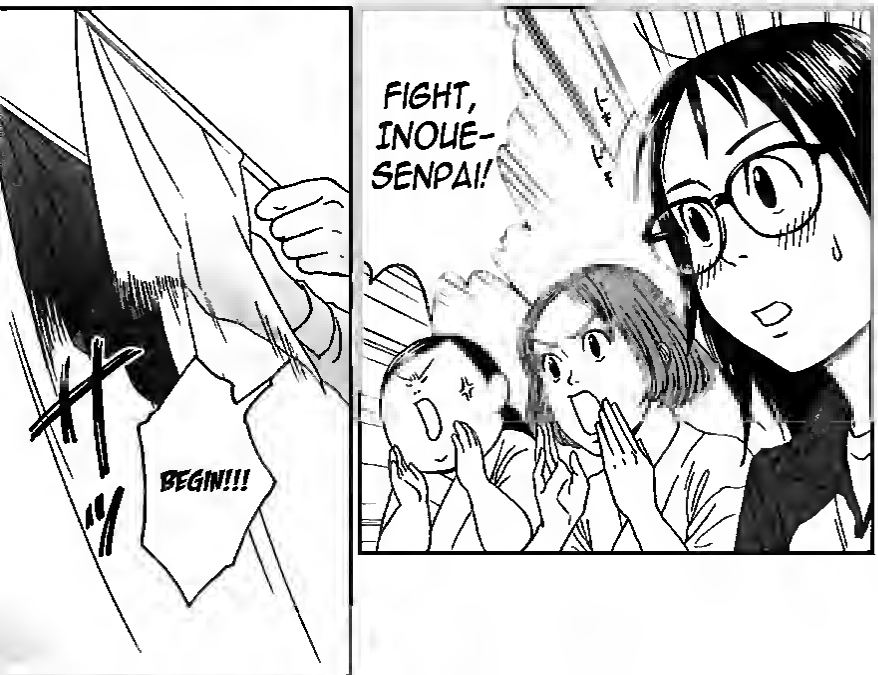
T/N: HAKAMA IS THE TROUSERS PART OF THE UNIFORM

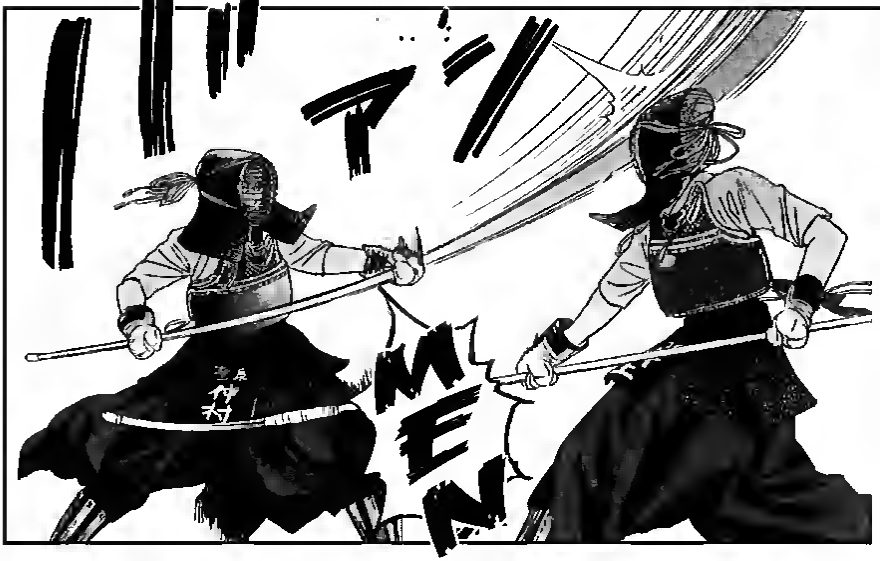
I'M NOT GOING TO PARTICIPATE IN THE MATCHES THIS TIME.
INOMATA-SENPAI, LET ME CARRY THAT FOR YOU!
THANKS, BUT I'M FINE CARRYING IT BY MYSELF.
S... SORRY...
I SEE.
ヒソ
MAHARU-SENPAI IS ALREADY FIGHTING, AND ONLY ONE REPRESENTATIVE IS NEEDED FROM THE THIRD YEARS!
OH...
LET'S JUST CHEER THEM ON, OKAY?
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT!
13
.....
HEY, DON'T JINX THEM!
IT'S KIND OF SAD...
INOMATA-SENPAI WOULD HAVE PROBABLY BEEN PLAYING HER RETIREMENT MATCH AS A THIRD YEAR NOW

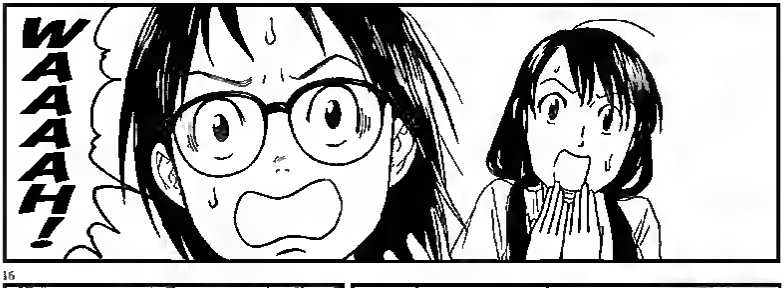
Interhigh Preliminaries
Block A, First Match
Red, Nissaka High.
White, Seisen Academy.
REI!
T/N: "REI" IS THE COMMAND FOR "BOW"
二年 井上
二年 栗田
二年 大友


First Match
Nissako
Akiko Inoue
(3rd year)
Seisen
Azusa Nakamura
(3rd year)

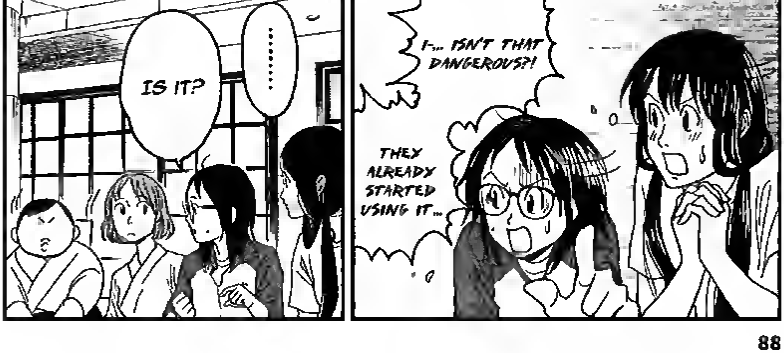


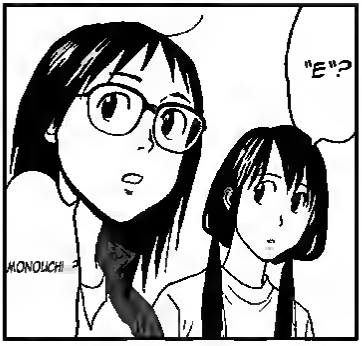

FIGHT, INOUE-SENPAI!
BEGIN!!!

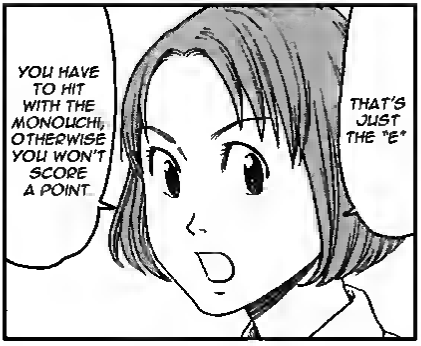

MEN

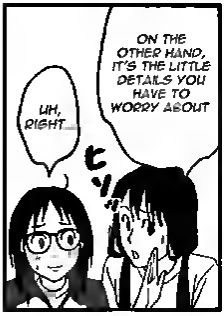

WAAAAH!

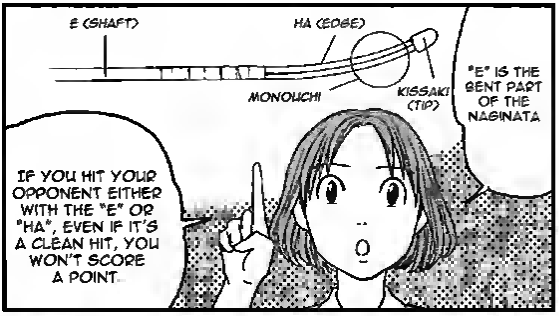
16

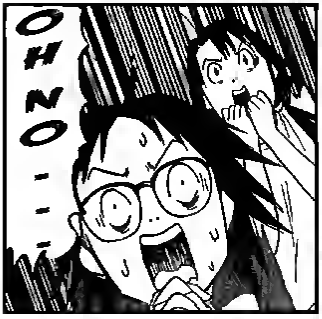

IS IT?
I-... ISN'T THAT DANGEROUS?!
THEY ALREADY STARTED USING IT...


"E"?
MONOUCHI?

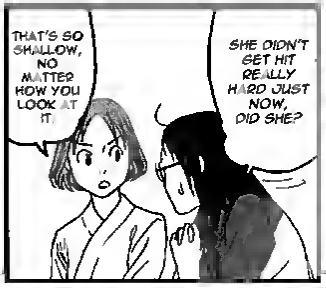

YOU HAVE TO HIT WITH THE MONOUCHI, OTHERWISE YOU WON'T SCORE A POINT.
THAT'S JUST THE "E"

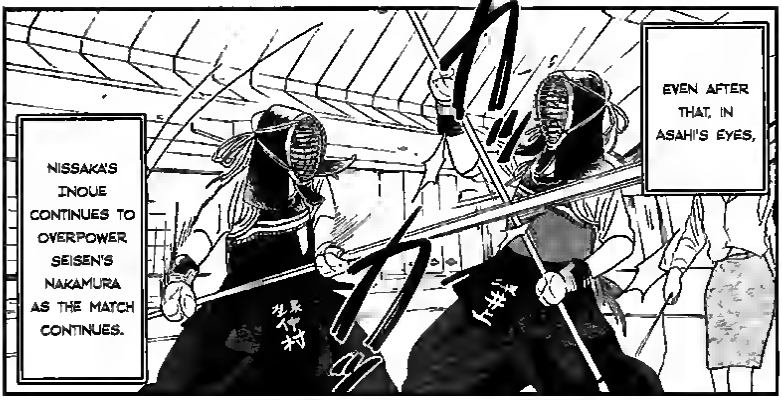

ON THE OTHER HAND, IT'S THE LITTLE DETAILS YOU HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT
UH, RIGHT...

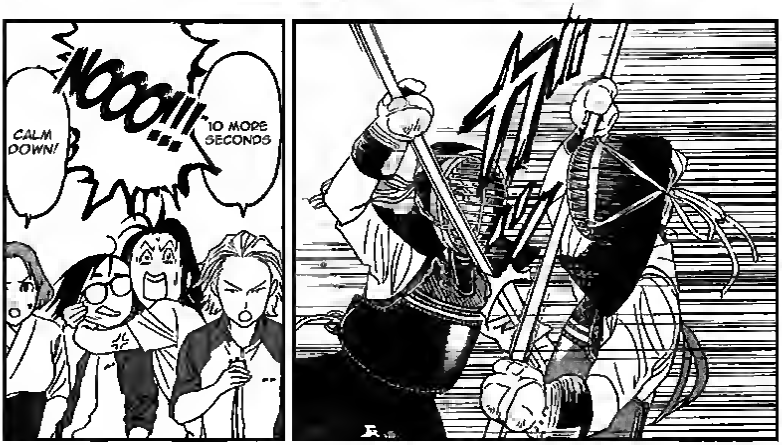

E (SHAFT)
HA (EDGE)
MONOUCHI
KISSAKI (TIP)
"E" IS THE BENT PART OF THE NAGINATA
IF YOU HIT YOUR OPPONENT EITHER WITH THE "E" OR "HA", EVEN IF IT'S A CLEAN HIT, YOU WON'T SCORE A POINT.


OH NO...

ヒュン
SWEEP

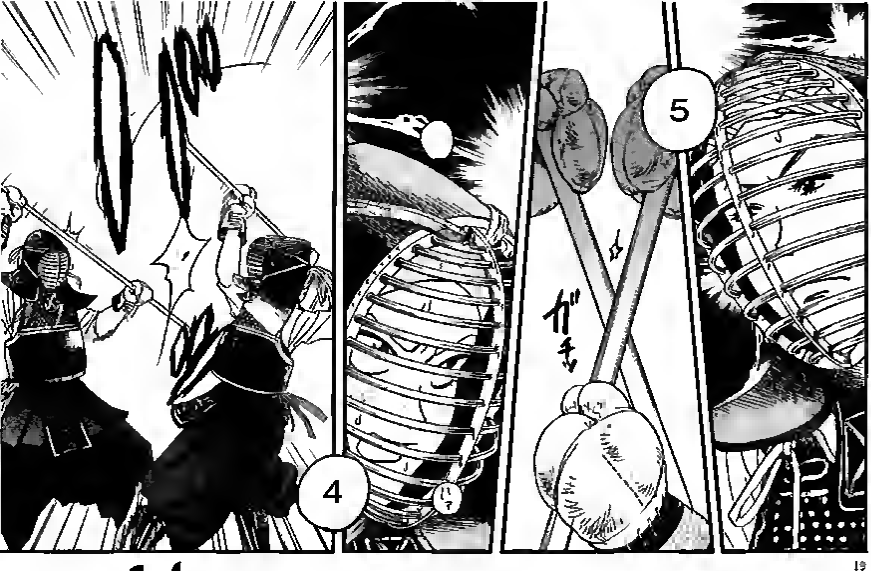

THAT'S SO SHALLOW, NO MATTER HOW YOU LOOK AT IT.
SHE DIDN'T GET HIT REALLY HARD JUST NOW, DID SHE?

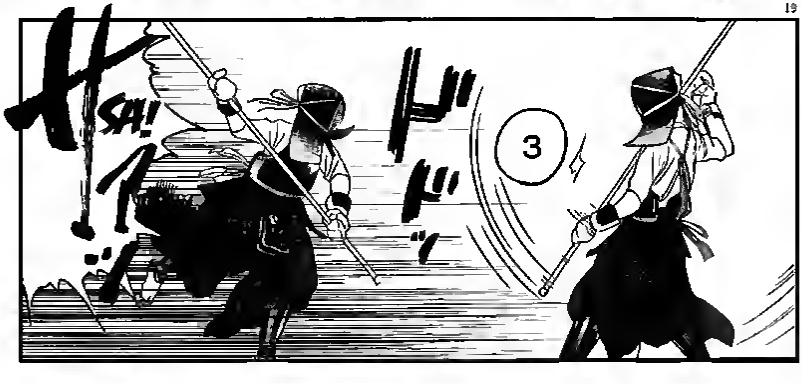

NISSAKA'S INOUE CONTINUES TO OVERPOWER SEISEN'S NAKAMURA AS THE MATCH CONTINUES.
EVEN AFTER THAT, IN ASAHI'S EYES,


NOOO!!!
CALM DOWN!
10 MORE SECONDS

AZUSA, STOP GETTING CARRIED AWAY AND FIGHT BACK!

JUST WATCH QUIETLY.


4
5
ガチ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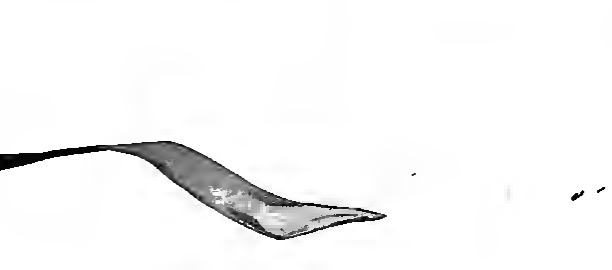
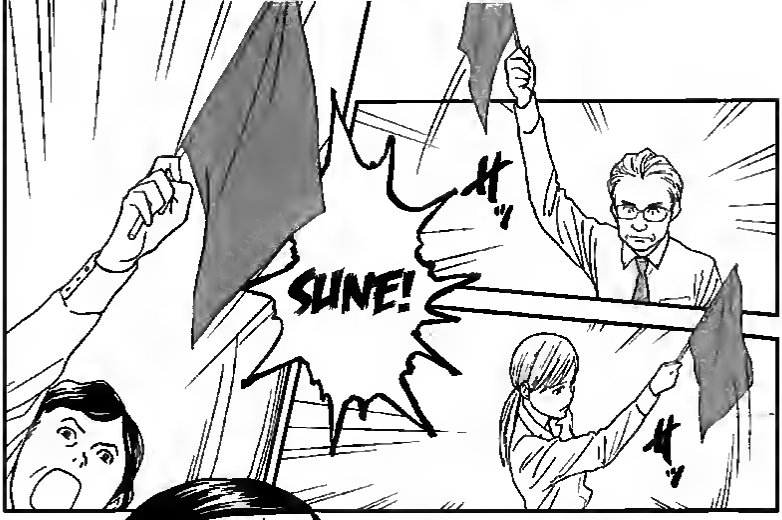
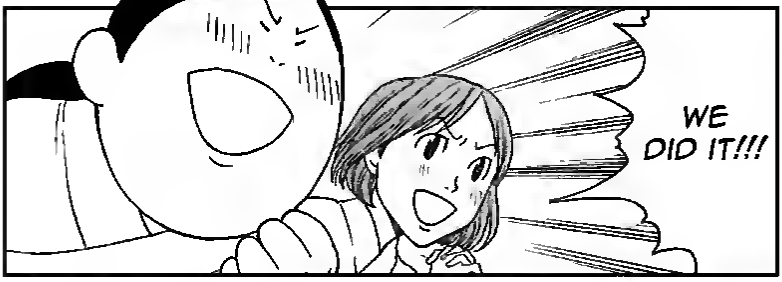
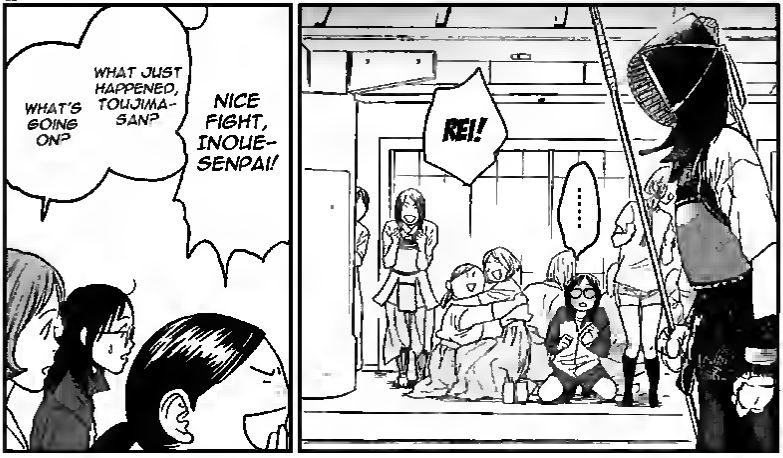

2

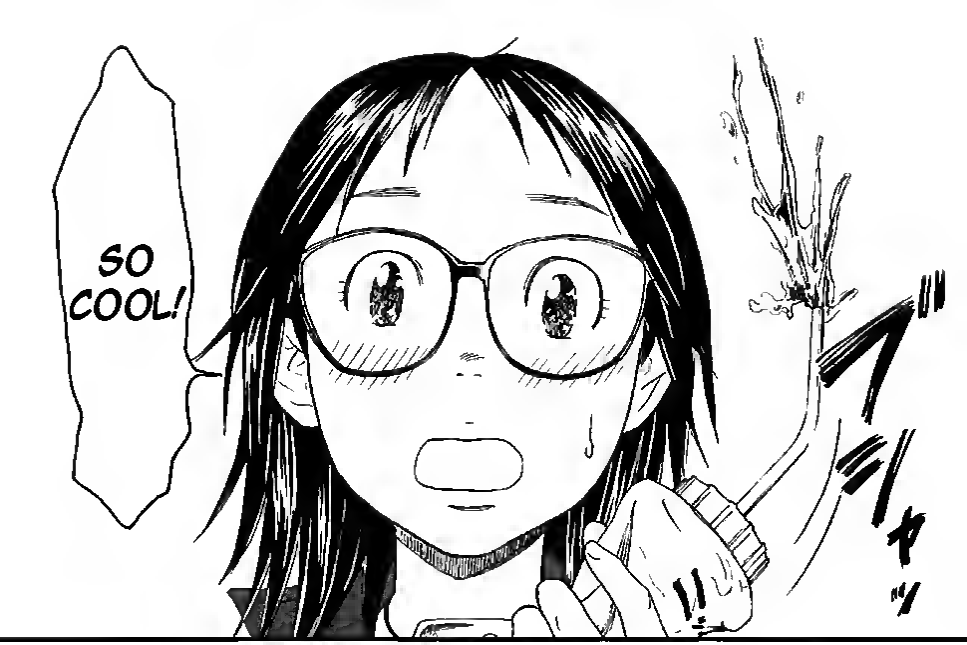
SUNE!!!
聖泉
仲村

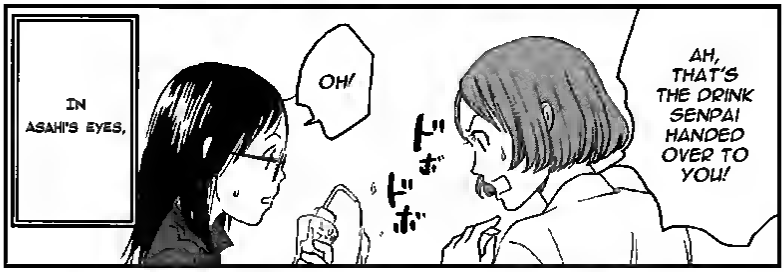

SUNE!

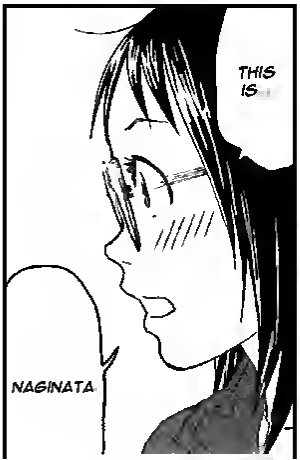

WE DID IT!!!

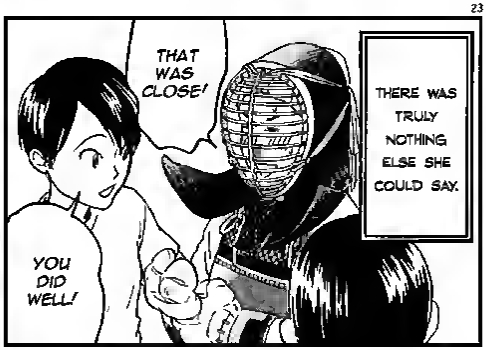
22


WHAT'S GOING ON?
WHAT JUST HAPPENED, TOUJIMA-SAN?
NICE FIGHT, INOUE-SENPAI!
REI!
.....


SO COOL!


IN ASAHI'S EYES,
OH!
ドボ ドボ
AH, THAT'S THE DRINK SENPAI HANDED OVER TO YOU!


THIS IS
NAGINATA


THAT WAS CLOSE!
THERE WAS TRULY NOTHING ELSE SHE COULD SAY.
YOU DID WELL!

THIS IS
MY NEW WORLD.
SECOND PLAYER, STEP FORWARD!
YES, SIR!

24

GOT LOST.
THIS "OLD MAN" REALIZED HE DOESN'T GET IT, EITHER...
WHO ARE YOU ANYWAY, OLD MAN?
SHUT UP!
COME ON, DO IT!
MEANWHILE, KOBAYASHI-SENSEI...
FIRST, THINK OF A POTATO!

ASAHINAGU